

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GUATEM 03406 312152Z
ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02
L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SY-02 MCT-01 USIA-01
PRS-01 PA-01 /043 W
-----312202Z 011957 /65

P 312136Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6203
INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 3406

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, GT, ES, IDB
SUBJ: SALVADOR AMBASSADOR KIDNAPPING CASE

REF: GUATEMALA 3374 AND 3377

1. DURING MY CALL TODAY (MAY 31) ON PRESIDENT LAUGERUD, HE BROUGHT ME UP-TO-DATE ON KIDNAPPING OF SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR, EDUARDO CASANOVA. HE SAID THAT CASANOVA FAMILY HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED LATE LAST NIGHT (MAY 30) TO PICK UP NOTE FROM EGP (A COPY OF WHICH HE GAVE ME AND TRANSLATION OF WHICH IS CONTAINED IN NEXT FOLLOWING TELEGRAM) IN WHICH EGP REQUESTED THAT ALL NEWSPAPERS IN GUATEMALA AND EL SALVADOR, AS WELL AS CERTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS IN GUATEMALA AND EL SALVADOR, SHOULD CARRY FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE DAYS THE TEXT OF THE EGP'S STATEMENT ATTACHED TO ITS ORIGINAL LETTER TO ORTIZ MENA.

2. PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD MET AT ONE A.M. THIS MORNING WITH CASANOVA FAMILY AND HAD AGREED THAT THIS REQUEST SHOULD BE MET IN GUATEMALA, NOTING THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO CLOSE ANY DOORS TO POSSIBILITY OF FREEING AMBASSADOR CASANOVA. HE SAID, CONFIDENTIAL

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NEVERTHELESS, THAT HE WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT AMBASSADOR'S FATE. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER EL SALVADOR GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO MEET EGP'S DEMAND AS IT AFFECTED EL SALVADOR.

3. PRESIDENT SAID HE BELIEVED THIS KIDNAPPING WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF SUCH EVENTS IN GUATEMALA AS THEY ENTERED ELECTION PERIOD. HE SAID EGP INTENTION WAS TO PREJUDICE THE ELECTORAL

SYSTEM AND THAT THEY WOULD LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN FOR HIM TO IMPOSE STATE OF SIEGE, WHICH HE WAS EQUALLY INTENT ON AVOIDING.

4. HE SAID HE HAD MET WITH HIS CABINET YESTERDAY ON THIS CASE AND HAD URGED THEM TO AVOID CABARETS, NIGHTCLUBS, OR ANY PLACES WHERE THEY WERE VULNERABLE TO KIDNAPPING, PUTTING THEM ON NOTICE THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO BARGAIN FOR THEM IN THE EVENT THEY WERE SEIZED. HE SAID HE HAD SIMILARLY INFORMED HIS THREE SONS LATER IN THE DAY. HE SAID HE WAS ALSO SENDING REPRESENTATIVES TO TEXAS TO LOOK INTO ACQUISITION OF ARMORED CARS TO UPGRADE SECURITY HERE FOR HIS SENIOR OFFICIALS.
BOSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PINS, GT, ES, IDB, (CASANOVA SANDOVAL, EDUARDO)
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